UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,838	11/20/2003	Brian Stanley Locke	ENB-006RCE	8559

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 March 2008*.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-6,8-12,14-16,18-23,25-27 and 29-31* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1, 2, 4–6, 8–12, 14–16, 18–23, 25–27, and 29–31* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible

for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been

timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR

1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/12/2008 has been entered.

2.   Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6, 8 – 12, 14 – 16, 18 – 23, 25 – 27, and 29 – 31 are pending. Claims 1,

11, 21, and 22 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 14 – 16, 18, 21, 22, 25 – 27, and 29

are the amended claims. Claims 3, 7, 13, 17, 24, and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6,

8 – 12, 14 – 16, 18 – 23, 25 – 27, and 29 – 31 have been rejected by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

4.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the

claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)

and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5.   Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6, 8, 10 – 12, 14 – 16, 18, 20 – 23, 25 – 27, 29, and 31 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Santos-Gomez (US 6,104,393) in view of Agrawal

et al. (US 2004/0098313 A1).

As per independent claim 1, Santos-Gomez discloses *a system for assisting a user in*

navigating through a performance of a task, the task including a plurality of sub-tasks

(Abstract)*, the system comprising a sub-task performance component to:*

-       *control the serial presentation of two or more of the sub-tasks on a graphical*

        user interface, each of the two or more sub-tasks displayed in a respective panel

        of the graphical user interface (column 2, line 59 – column 3, line 13)*, and*

-       *to enable the user, for each of the two or more sub-tasks, to perform the sub-*

        task by entering information into the respective panel of the sub-task as the sub-

        task is being presented (column 6, lines 4 – 18)

Santos-Gomez also discloses that *said system comprises a sub-task list component to*

control the display of a sub-task list of items to the user on a graphical user interface while the

two or more sub-tasks are being presented, each item representing a respective one of the

plurality of sub-tasks and including a sub-task identifier identifying the respective one of the sub-

tasks (column 5, lines 27 – 50).

Furthermore, Santos-Gomez also discloses that *the sub-task performance component is operable to determine one or more of the items to include in the sub-task list based on information entered by the user in the respective panels of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks* (column 8, lines 35 – 45), wherein it has been interpreted that if the user selects the task relating to the creating of a new object, upon completion of said creating, this new object will become a part of the list of objects corresponding to sub-tasks, and therefore will become a sub-task object itself. Furthermore, it would be obvious that the display of the list of sub-task objects may be displayed during the task of creation of a new sub-task object, because Santos-Gomes discloses that this view is a possible view of sub-tasks.

Santos-Gomez does not explicitly disclose displaying, within at least one of the items of the sub-task list of items, a datum corresponding to a parameter of the sub-task represented by the at least one item, wherein the sub-task list component is operable, for each of the at least one item, to control the change of the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task displayed within the item based on information entered by the user in the panel of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks.

However, in an analogous art, Agrawal discloses *displaying, within at least one of the items of a sub-task list component of items, a datum corresponding to a parameter of the sub-task represented by the at least one item, wherein the sub-task list component is operable, for each of the at least one item, to control the change of the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task displayed within the item based on information entered by the user in a panel of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks* (Fig. 6 and [0108] – [0116]), wherein it would be obvious that selection of an edit sub-task object would result in any possible means of editing, of

which could include an opening of a panel or window to perform said editing, because the user would appreciate the ability to separately view the representation of the object they are editing while said editing is performed so as to provide better contextual awareness for the user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching of Agrawal into the system of Santos-Gomez, because both inventions are for interfaces for navigating through tasks/sub-tasks to be performed that require the entry or selection of data, wherein the interfaces include a listing of said tasks/sub-tasks. Furthermore, because Santos-Gomez already discloses that it would be beneficial to provide a visual feedback to a user of the status of each component and overall object (column 8, lines 18 – 25), it would therefore be obvious that one would want to be easily notified of particular entered of selected data while performing said tasks/sub-tasks so that one could know if a particular task/sub-task has not yet been performed or if one might need to modify previously entered or selected data.

As per independent claim 11, the claim is substantially similar to the system of claim 1, except that it is directed to a *computer-implemented method* of executing the system of claim 1. However, Santos-Gomez discloses a computer-implemented method of executing the system of claim 1 (Abstract, line 1). Therefore, claim 11 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

As per independent claim 21, the claim is substantially similar to the system of claim 1, except that the system includes a *means for displaying*, within at least one of the items, information corresponding to the sub-task represented by the at least one item. However, Santos-Gomez discloses a means for displaying, within at least one of the items, information corresponding to the sub-task represented by the at least one item (column 3, 35 – 54), where the

means for displaying is exhibited by the inclusion of a computer workstation and a display device. Furthermore, a *means for operating* is also provided through the computer workstation. In addition, the claims includes *a means for changing,* for each of the at least one item, the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task displayed within the item based on information entered by the user in the panel of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks. However, Agrawal discloses such a means as the service of the system disclosed in [0034]. Therefore, the rest of claim 21 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

As per independent claim 22, the claim is substantially similar to the system of claim 1, except that it is directed to a *computer-readable medium* for executing the methods of the system of claim 1. However, Santos-Gomez discloses a computer-readable medium for executing the methods of the system of claim 1 (Abstract, line 1). Therefore, claim 22 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

As per claim 2, and taking into account the rejection of claim 1, Santos-Gomez further discloses that *the sub-task list component is operable, for each of the at least one items, to control the display in the item of information entered by the user in the panel of the sub-task represented by the item* (column 8, lines 35 – 45).

As per claim 4, and taking into account the rejection of claim 1, Santos-Gomez further discloses that *the sub-task list component is operable to enable the user to perform the two or more of the sub-tasks in a temporal order in which the user selects the two or more items representing the two or more sub-tasks, respectively, from the sub-task list* (column 8, lines 47 – 53).

As per claim 5, and taking into account the rejection of claim 4, Santos-Gomez further discloses that *the sub-task list component is operable to enable the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order that is independent of a positional order in which the two or more sub-task items representing the two or more sub-tasks, respectively, are listed* (column 8, lines 47 – 53).

As per claim 6, and taking into account the rejection of claim 1, Santos-Gomez further discloses that *the sub-task performance component is operable to determine one or more of the sub-tasks required to perform the task based on information entered by the user in the respective panels of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks* (column 7, lines 37 – 60).

As per claim 8, and taking into account the rejection of claim 7, Santos-Gomez further discloses that *the sub-task performance component is operable, in the event that information already has been entered by the user for a first sub-task, to determine that an item representing the first sub-task is no longer to be included in the sub-task list and to control notifying the user that confirming an acceptance of the information entered in the first panel will result in the information entered for the second sub-task being discarded* (column 9, lines 37 – 45), where the control of notifying the user is exhibited by the option of including a test that must receive a positive response in order to discard information.

As per claim 10, and taking into account the rejection of claim 1, Santos-Gomez further discloses that *the sub-task list component is operative to vertically orient the sub-task list on the graphical user interface* (Fig. 3A), where the sub-task list is vertically displayed on the left side of the figure.

As per claim 12, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 11, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 2.

As per claim 14, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 11, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 4.

As per claim 15, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 14, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 5.

As per claim 16, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 11, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 6.

As per claim 18, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 17, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 8.

As per claim 20, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 11, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 10.

As per claim 23, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 22, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 2.

As per claim 25, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 22, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 4.

As per claim 26, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 25, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 5.

As per claim 27, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 22, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 6.

As per claim 29, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 28, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 8.

As per claim 31, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 22, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 10.

6.   Claims 9, 19, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Santos-Gomez (US 6,104,393) and Agrawal et al. (US 2004/0098313 A1) in view of Bach et al. (US 6,128,622).

As per claim 9, Santos-Gomez and Agrawal sufficiently disclose the system of claim 1. Santos-Gomez and Agrawal do not explicitly disclose that the system is operable to perform the task of creating one or more rules of an access control sub-task list for a network device.

However, in an analogous art, Bach discloses *performing the task of creating one or more rules of an access control sub-task list for a network device* (column 13, lines 8 – 17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching of Bach into the system of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal to develop a system for assisting a user in navigating through a performance of tasks and sub-tasks pertaining to creating rules of an access control sub-task list for a network device, because all three inventions are for interfaces for navigating through tasks/sub-tasks to be performed. In addition, the modification would have been obvious, because Santos-Gomez's configuration wizard would guide a user through the configuration of a computer network (column 1, lines 59 – 64). Thus, a user would want such a wizard to assist in the configuration of all aspects of a computer network, such as the creation and configuration of rules of an access control sub-task list.

As per claim 19, and taking into account the rejection of the method of claim 11, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

As per claim 30, and taking into account the rejection of the computer-readable medium of claim 22, the claim is rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

Response to Arguments

7.   Applicant's arguments filed on 3/12/2008 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

8.   The Applicant has argued that "Santos-Gomez does not teach or suggest adding a new target object to the target object area 100 based on information entered by the user *in performing a task corresponding to an existing target object. As* such, Santos-Gomez does not teach or suggest 'the sub-task performance component is operable to determine one or more of the items to include in the sub-task list based on information entered by the user in the respective panels of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks,' as recited in claim 1."

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to this argument, please refer to the rejection of newly amended claim 1, *supra*, and to Santos-Gomez, column 8, lines 35 – 45; wherein it has been interpreted that if the user selects the task relating to the creating of a new object, upon completion of said creating, this new object will become a part of the list of objects corresponding to sub-tasks, and therefore will become a sub-task object itself. Furthermore, it would be obvious that the display of the list of sub-task objects may be displayed during the task

of creation of a new sub-task object, because Santos-Gomes discloses that this view is a possible

view of sub-tasks.

9.   The Applicant has argued that "Agrawal does not teach or suggest controlling the change

in a setting in one panel based on information entered by the user in another panel. As such,

Agrawal does not teach or suggest 'the sub-task list component is operable, for each of the at

least one item, to control the change of the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task

displayed within the item based on information entered by the user in the panel of at least one of

the two or more sub-tasks,' as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to this argument, please refer to the

rejection of newly amended claim 1, *supra*, and to Agrawal, Fig. 6 and [0108] – [0116]); wherein

it would be obvious that selection of an edit sub-task object would result in any possible means

of editing, of which could include an opening of a panel or window to perform said editing,

because the user would appreciate the ability to separately view the representation of the object

they are editing while said editing is performed so as to provide better contextual awareness for

the user.

Conclusion

10.   It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art

references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any

way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have

reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-

33,216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006,1009, 158

USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)).

11.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's

disclosure. The cited documents represent the general state of the art.

12.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Eric A. Wiener whose telephone number is 571-270-1401. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Eric A Wiener/

Examiner, Art Unit 2179

/Steven B Theriault/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2179